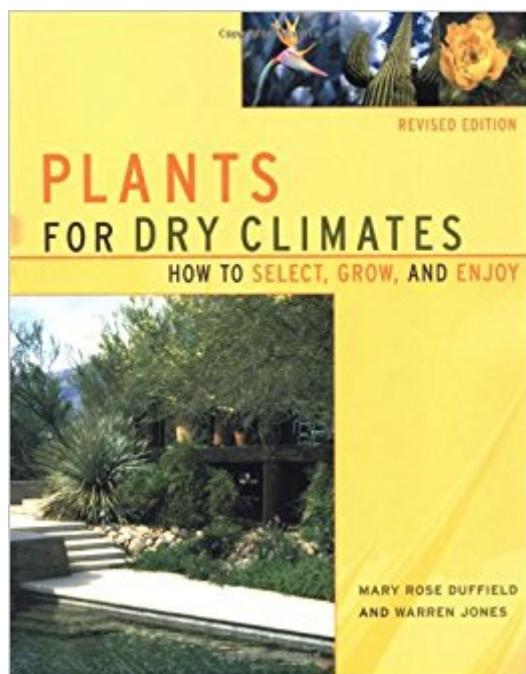


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# Plants For Dry Climates: How To Select, Grow, And Enjoy, Revised Edition



## **Synopsis**

The desert Southwest is booming, with western counties consistently leading in population growth over the past decade. Yet while the Southwest has plenty of people and plenty of heat and sunshine, water remains at a premium. From Southern California to West Texas, in Arizona and Nevada and New Mexico, homeowners seek new ways to enjoy a lush environment while conserving precious water resources. *Plants for Dry Climates* is the only book of its kind to cater to this thirsty audience, with information that comprises both good landscape design and essential cultural information for nearly 450 plants. It gives readers all the information they need to plan a complete landscape that includes both mini-oasis features as well as arid-landscape plantings. This revised edition of *Plants for Dry Climates* provides complete descriptions of more than 350 plant species in an extensive plant encyclopedia section, with entries including description, situational photo, and requirements: zone, soil, sun, water, temperature, and maintenance.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; Revised edition (September 26, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1555612512

ISBN-13: 978-1555612511

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 8.6 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #848,723 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Climate > Desert #1454 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique #1883 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Plants

## **Customer Reviews**

"A splendid introduction to desert gardening." -- Sun City News-Sun 03/21/04 "An extensive reference book...a good book to daydream over when planning a desert garden." -- New Mexico Magazine, 8/02 "The first comprehensive plant book devoted to the growing conditions of our region...An essential resource." -- Phoenix Home & Garden March 2004

Mary Rose Duffield is an award-winning landscape architect with an active practice designing

landscapes throughout the Southwest. She has been instrumental in the development of the new Southwest regional style in landscape design, which emphasizes native plants. Warren Jones is a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. A retired professor of landscape architecture at the University of Arizona, he now serves on the advisory board of the Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum in Superior, Arizona. He is the co-author of *Landscape Plants for Dry Regions*.

This is a good, basic reference book for anyone who works with or just enjoys plants and lives in a desert environment. I had gotten rid of my older copy and missed it so much I ordered this one. This one is a newer version and has color pictures! Not fancy, just good information on a wide variety of plants.

If you live in a dry climate, this book can be very helpful. It has a great breakdown of the different arid climates that I think is more useful than the traditional zones. It addresses the ingredients of your climate including cold and frost, heat, rainfall, winds, and humidity. It also has a section of microclimates. The charts and illustrations are great. I liked the descriptions of the plants, especially the notes on special design features, uses, disadvantages, and planting and care. I found this to be an all-around useful book.

This is one of two gardening books we bought after moving to Arizona two years ago; the other is "Arizona Gardener's Guide" by Mary Irish. Of the two, this is probably the more informative, but the wealth of information it contains is not presented in the most user-friendly way. Plants are listed using their proper botanical names (i.e. in Latin) rather than the common names that most people are likely to be familiar with. The photography is first-rate, and the "how to" explanations are mostly clear and easy to follow. If you live in Arizona, and only want to buy one book, I'd recommend the Arizona Gardener's Guide, as it is AZ-specific. If you live outside Arizona, this is probably the better choice -- although you might want to buy both, as they have different strengths.

Maybe because there are few other works on the subject it is the one to own but it is hardly encyclopedic. It seems to have everything listed and illustrated but can only be a jumping off reference to further research if you plan to grow the plant yourself.

Although this book supposedly covers my region of New Mexico, I found so little in it that applied to

me that I am returning it. Three-fourths of the book is a plant reference, and most of the plants are not cold hardy below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, making about half the book wasted paper as far as I am concerned. Also, a lot of xeric standards for this region are missing. If you can, check the map on pages 2-3 to make sure that you live in the Low or Middle regions (as I write this, the map is included in the scanned pages here on, but isn't displaying properly). For the High region, I recommend instead any of the books by Judith Phillips, who writes toward climates that are slightly wetter and somewhat cooler than the ones that are the focus here.

Lived in a desert most of my life. Nice to see some pretty gardens and landscaping that are thrifty on water

This is a great book for the desert landscaper. I live in the big bend area of Texas and have been looking for something like this for a long time. It's easy to read, lets you know what elevation, rainfall, water needs, sun etc. that particular plant need to thrive. It's written so the lay person can understand it with just the amount of information for gardner/lanscaper needs. Has been a big help in finishing up landscaping projects I've been doing and on the projects I am starting.

I had an earlier version of the book which was the best one on the subject matter (I had bought several other books on the subject before I found this one). It was over 25 years old and coming apart, so I wanted a new one. It was expanded from the earlier version which was very helpful.

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